

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for communicating messages using a signaling
2 compression protocol, the method comprising:

3 detecting control messages at a communication intermediary from a
4 compressed stream of messages;

5 decompressing the detected control messages at the communication
6 intermediary; and

7 passing user messages from the compressed stream of messages through
8 the communication intermediary without modifications.

1 2. The method claim 1, wherein the control messages comprise a
2 multiplex identifier.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the multiplex identifier is located at
2 the beginning of a communication session.

1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein detecting control messages at a
2 communication intermediary from a compressed stream of messages comprises
3 detecting the multiplex identifier.

1 5. The method of claim 2, wherein user messages are messages
2 without the multiplex identifier.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the control messages are hop-by-
2 hop messages and user messages are end-to-end messages.

1 7. A device that communicates messages using a signaling
2 compression protocol, the device comprising:

3 an input that receives messages;
4 an output that transmits messages;
5 a processor that detects control messages included in the messages
6 received by the input, wherein the processor decompresses the control
7 messages and directs non-control messages to be communicated through the
8 output without modification.

1 8. The device of claim 7, wherein the processor detects control
2 messages by identifying a special bytecode contained in the control messages.

1 9. The device of claim 7, wherein the control messages are
2 uncompressed.

1 10. The device of claim 7, wherein the control messages are used at
2 the beginning of a session and the processor enters a forwarding mode after the
3 control messages are received.

1 11. The device of claim 7, wherein the modification comprises
2 decompression.

1 12. A system for communicating messages using a signaling
2 compression protocol, the system comprising:

3 a first communication device having a compressor and a decompressor;
4 a second communication device having a compressor and a
5 decompressor; and
6 an intermediate relay between the first communication device and the
7 second communication device that detects and decompresses control messages
8 in messages communicated from the first communication device, and passes
9 user messages through to the second communication device without

10 decompression.

1 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the intermediate relay detects
2 control messages when the intermediate relay detects an identifier located in the
3 messages.

1 14. The system of claim 12, wherein the intermediate relay enters
2 forwarding mode after control messages are received.

1 15. The system of claim 12, wherein messages communicated from the
2 first communication device comprise compressed and uncompressed messages,
3 the control messages being uncompressed and the user messages being
4 compressed.

1 16. A computer program product comprising:

2 computer code configured to:
3 detect control messages at a communication intermediary
4 from a stream of messages;

5 decompress the detected control messages at the
6 communication intermediary; and

7 communicate user messages from the stream of messages
8 through the communication intermediary without modification.

1 17. The computer program product of claim 16, further comprising
2 computer code to identify a byte code designating a control message.

1 18. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the byte code
2 loads a compression algorithm into a processor.

1 19. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the control
2 messages are hop-by-hop messages.

1 20. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein messages
2 comprise compressed and uncompressed messages, the control messages being
3 uncompressed and the user messages being compressed and a transition from
4 uncompressed to compressed is signaled using a control message.